

Serial Number: «ApplicationNumber»
Filed: «ApplicationDate»

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Remarks

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 5-7, 13-14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over *Lundback* in view of *Harwath*. The Examiner identifies a "positive stop" in *Lundback* as the "unnumbered section above 24 fig.2". Applicant respectfully submits that the identified surface(s) between the back end of front member 11 and the shoulder of the front inner sleeve 16 cannot be a positive stop because, as shown in figure 1, when in the operating position these surfaces do not bottom against each other preventing further movement of the clamp nut towards the connector body. As shown, fully tightened to move each of the described elements to their operating position(s), they do not even touch each other. Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the discussion of figure 1 identifying operating positions F, T and U (col. 3, ln 22-24; col. 4, ln 12-18). Further, no discussion of the "positive stop" identified by the Examiner or recognition of the problem solved by the present novel, non-obvious invention appears in the description, whatsoever.

A user attempting to bottom the identified surfaces against each other, beyond the operating positions shown and described in the cited reference, as suggested by the Examiner would damage the guide surface 24, outer collar 9, ring 27 and or contact surface 30 - rendering the cited reference unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, directly contrary to the teachings therein. If the proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification. *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

Because the cited references fail to disclose, teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention, rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is improper. Because each of the independent claims are believed to be patentable, the dependant claims including further limitations thereof should also be patentable. Therefore, the objected claims 3, 4 and 15 are also believed to be allowable in their original form.

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With respect to the allowed claims 8-12, applicant agrees that the present invention as claimed is novel and non-obvious and therefore patentable. However, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner recognize that, rather than the alleged absence of the single element identified by the Examiner, each allowed claim is patentable because each and every one of the claimed elements in the combination claimed and or the teachings or suggestions to combine these elements as claimed fails to appear in the prior art.

Having obviated each of the Examiner's rejections, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all claims.

If the Examiner has any questions with respect to the amendments or arguments presented herein or requires any further information with respect to the present application, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone prior to issuing any further Official Actions other than the Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

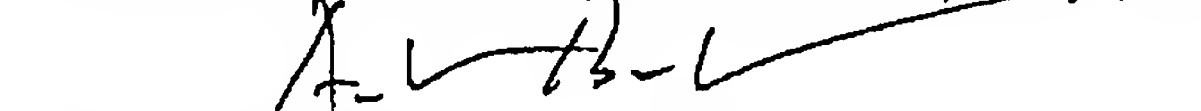


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No 703 872-9306) on May 3, 2004.



Andrew D. Babcock